



Riverside County District Attorney

CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE

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MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON WITHOUT PAROLE FOR THE MURDER OF 74-YEAR-OLD WOMAN DURING 2007 CRIME SPREE IN HEMET

MURRIETA – Today, Oct. 25, 2013, a man was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole for the 2007 attempted rape and murder of a 74-year-old woman during a four-month crime spree at a seniors-only apartment complex in Hemet.

Kenneth Daniels Jr., DOB: 9-27-86, of San Jacinto, was sentenced by Riverside County Superior Court Judge Angel Bermudez to first serve eight years, eight months, then four consecutive 25 to life sentences and life without the possibility of parole.

Daniels was found guilty on Aug. 13, 2013, by a Riverside County jury of first-degree murder and the special circumstance allegations to be true in the murder. Daniels was convicted of 12 felonies, including one count of murder, for a series of crimes he committed from late August through late December 2007 at the Oak Terrace Senior Apartments on North Santa Fe Street in Hemet.

Then, on Sept. 16, 2013, the same jury decided that Daniels, who had faced the death penalty, should be sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for the murder.

The first crime committed by Daniels in this case happened on Aug. 21, 2007, when he broke into the apartment of a 64-year-old woman who he then raped. Daniels returned to the same apartment on Oct. 19, 2007, and again raped the same victim. Then, on Dec. 13, 2007, a delivery person noticed that a package left for a woman at another apartment in the same complex the day before had not been retrieved from her doorway. Apartment complex management staff were notified and checked on the 74-year-old woman who was found badly beaten and murdered inside her apartment. Daniels was convicted of the attempted rape and murder of that victim. It is believed the murder was committed on Dec. 11, 2007. On Dec. 28, 2007, Daniels tried to break into a third apartment in the same complex but this time a woman inside was able to call police who arrived and arrested him.

DNA samples collected at the murder scene and at the scene of the two rapes in August were compared and matched to Daniels. Blood from the murder victim was also found on Daniels' shoes which were recovered by authorities during a search warrant.

The case, SWF024245, was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Jess Walsh of the DA's Homicide Unit.